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PROGRAMME PLANNING

Country and intercountry programmes and projects

Assistance to Lebanon

Note by the Administrator

1. Owing to the prevailing security situation, the third country programme for Lebanon, covering the period 1987-1991, was never prepared. In its decision 88/31, the Governing Council concurred with the Administrator's request to provide assistance to the country on a project-by-project basis until such time that conditions permitted the preparation of a country programme.

2. Conditions in Lebanon have improved considerably over the last several months. The application of the Taef Accord and the systematic extension of the Government's control over most of the country during the past several months have provided the United Nations in general, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) specifically, with an opportunity to respond more fully to the development needs of Lebanon. Following these and other developments, a United Nations Security Mission was fielded to Lebanon in May 1991, resulting in the lowering of the United Nations security rating, thereby allowing the reactivation of United Nations reconstruction and development efforts.

3. Although certain security restrictions remain, a number of further developments have taken place that will facilitate the preparation of a country programme. In July 1991, the Secretary-General fielded a United Nations inter-agency needs assessment mission to undertake an initial assessment of Lebanon's reconstruction and development requirements. Organized by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services and led by UNDP, the mission outlined a comprehensive programme of immediate and medium-term technical cooperation

requirements in five areas: (a) emergency assistance; (b) infrastructure and services; (c) social and human development; (d) national planning and civil administration; and (e) economic revitalization. The report was published as an addendum to the report of the Secretary-General on assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon (A/46/557/Add.2) and is expected to serve as the framework for future technical cooperation programming in Lebanon. The report and its major findings was presented to a December 1991 Aid Coordination Meeting of donors along with macroeconomic and sectoral assessments completed by a follow-up joint World Bank/UNDP mission.

4. With the improvement of the security situation in Lebanon, the reactivation of development programming within a comprehensive Government and United Nations framework and the recent appointment of a senior UNDP Resident Representative in Lebanon, the Administrator is pleased to report to the Governing Council that conditions are now such that preparations have started on the third country programme. The country programme will consolidate resources remaining from the fourth cycle with those for the fifth cycle and will be presented to the Governing Council at its special session in February 1993. In the meantime, UNDP will continue to programme assistance on a project-by-project basis within the overall priority areas of the national programme of reconstruction and development and in line with normal delegated approval authority.